

Opticians, Dispensing (29-2081)

Occupation description: Design, measure, fit, and adapt lenses and frames for client according to written optical prescription or specification. Assist client with inserting, removing, and caring for contact lenses. Assist client with selecting frames. Measure customer for size of eyeglasses and coordinate frames with facial and eye measurements and optical prescription. Prepare work order for optical laboratory containing instructions for grinding and mounting lenses in frames. Verify exactness of finished lens spectacles. Adjust frame and lens position to fit client. May shape or reshape frames. Includes contact lens opticians.

Employment and Job Openings

	Average employment			Average annual openings		
	2010 estimate	2020 projection	Percent change	Growth	Replacement	Total
Alaska	162	216	33.3	5	4	9
United States	62,600	80,700	28.9	1,810	1,250	3,060

Job outlook

Alaska: Alaska's employment growth is robust with moderate employment opportunities. [Read more.](#)

2013 Wages ?

	Mean Wage and 95% Confidence Interval			Wage by Percentile		
	Low	Mean	High	10th	Median	90th
United States	n/a	17.17	n/a	10.24	16.24	26.20
Alaska	19.11	21.23	23.35	12.91	22.62	28.27
Anchorage/Mat-Su Area (MSA)	18.86	22.01	25.16	12.96	24.50	28.60
Balance of State	17.74	21.49	25.24	11.43	22.18	28.00

Labor Force Indicators

2012 Worker Characteristics

Total workers	Nonresident workers	Percent nonresident	Percent age 45 plus	Percent age 50 plus
168	29	17.3	37.7	31.1

2012 Potential Supply

Qualified but working in another occupation	52
Currently employed in a lower paid occupation	20
UI claimants previously working in occupation	20

2012 ALEXsys Employment Data

Number of registrants	96
Number of job position postings	10
Ratio of registrants to job position postings	9.6

2011 Alaska Licensing Information

Optician: 377 licensed

Typical Entry-level Education, Experience, and/or On-the-job Training

Education: High school diploma or equivalent

Work experience: None

On-the-job training: Long-term on-the-job training

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